

## **BENDEX Modernization Changes Policy Memo**

Numerous changes are being made to the BENDEX process due to the BENDEX Modernization project. (See TEAMS Bulletin)

### **BEII Income Amounts**

BEII will now display the following:

Gross Pay Amt:

Net Monthly Benefit Amt: (amount interfaced to TEAMS UNIN)

Monthly OP Ded Amt:

SSI OP Amt Withheld:

Garnishment Amt Withheld:

**NOTE:** The Net Monthly Benefit Amt does not reflect the monthly overpayment deduction amount, the SSI overpayment amount withheld, attorney's fees or the garnishment amount withheld. It reflects the gross pay amount rounded down.

If the Net Monthly Benefit Amt that is interfaced to TEAMS is different than what SOLQ shows the client receiving, or from what the client reports they are receiving, further investigation must be completed to identify the reasons for the discrepancy.

For TANF cash assistance, Family-Related Medicaid and food stamps, the following policy guidance must be followed in regards to the BENDEX changes:

If the discrepancy is due to an overpayment being deducted from the net monthly benefit amount and the overpayment is from the same income source (Social Security) the amount being withheld for the overpayment must be subtracted from the net monthly benefit amount on TEAMS and a "final" net amount of income is used to determine eligibility. (TANF 501-1 page 10, FS 501-1 pages 13-14, FMA 501-1 page 10 - RECOUPMENT FOR PRIOR OVERPAYMENTS) The amount being withheld for the overpayment will be displayed on BEII under the Monthly OP Ded Amt field.

If the discrepancy is due to a garnishment from an unrelated program, e.g., child support being deducted from social security, the net monthly benefit amount that interfaces to TEAMS is accurate. Payment of the child support is an allowable expense and would be reflected on EXPE or DEID. (TANF 501-1 page 5, FS 501-1 page 8, FMA 501-1 page 6 - GARNISHMENT; TANF 602-1 page 3 and 604-1 page 2, FS 602-2 pages 3-5, FMA 602-1- INCOME DISREGARDS) The garnishment amount that is being withheld will be displayed on BEII under the Garnishment Amt Withheld field.

For ABD Medicaid,

If the discrepancy is due to a recovery of an overpayment of SSA or SSI benefits, we must determine whether the overpayment occurred during an eligible Medicaid span, or during a period when the recipient was not on Medicaid. (MA 501-1 page 6 –

GARNISHMENT). If the overpayment being recovered was received during a Medicaid-eligible period, the gross SSA less the SSA overpayment recovery is countable income. If the overpayment being recovered was received during a period when the individual was not receiving Medicaid, the gross SSA benefit is countable income now.

If the discrepancy is due to withholding of child support or alimony, the gross SSA is entered on the system and the child support or alimony (if verified as legally obligated) can be entered as an expense on EXPE. (MA 601-3)

Any other garnishments or withholdings are not excluded and the gross SSA benefit is counted as income for ABD Medicaid.

### **Date of Death Alert**

The BENDEX process will trigger an alert “DATE OF DEATH RECEIVED FROM BENDEX—PLEASE VERIFY AND ENTER” if the file contains a date of death for an individual.

For TANF cash assistance, ABD Medicaid and FMA Medicaid, when you receive an alert, please take steps to verify the date of death, enter the information on TEAMS and take appropriate action on the case.

For the Food Stamp Program, the alert is acted on according to the household's reporting requirements (FS 1501-3, FS 1501-4).

### **Income Processing:**

Income updates that cannot be posted to TEAMS before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will now be “held” and posted to TEAMS the first of the following month. However, the BEII screen will be updated with the income information and an alert set “NEW SS INCOME ON BEII—UNIN NOT UPDATED”.

The income will automatically be updated the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month for the next month and if the case has been authorized, it will be deauthorized. If the case is deauthorized, the following alert will be sent “XXXX BNFT DE-AUTHED MM/YY—BNDX SS DIFF” (XXXX represents the program being deauthorized). If you receive this alert, you will need to process the case and authorize benefits, sending proper notice.

For TANF cash assistance, food stamps, ABD Medicaid and FMA Medicaid: When you receive the alert “NEW SS INCOME ON BEII—UNIN NOT UPDATED”, please review the income on BEII and determine if the change in income would result in an increased benefit or lower incurment to the client. If so, update the income on UNIN and send notice of increased benefits.

If the change in income would result in a decreased benefit or higher incurment to the client, no action should be taken unless there is time to send 10-day notice.